

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, is there a single American who believes that government waste, fraud and abuse does not really exist? I do not think so. Examples of misuse of the taxpayers' hard-earned money are far too plentiful. Just ask the 26,000 dead people who received food stamps in a single year. Or ask the folks in Russia who got to enjoy Ben & Jerry's ice cream at the expense of the American taxpayer. Or ask the defense contractor who charged the Pentagon \$714 for an electric bell that I could have bought at Lowe's hardware for \$46. Mr. Speaker, I could go on, but my point is simple. The Republican plan to take one cent, this is one penny, one cent of every dollar of the Federal bureaucracy is not only responsible, it is necessary.

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I find these misuses of taxpayer money outrageous. What makes them more outrageous is the Federal Government has been raiding Social Security for 30 years to pay for this kind of thing. One penny, 1 percent. Believe me, there is at least that much fat in every bureaucracy that can be eliminated. It is minimal, it is fair, it is the right direction.

OPPOSE SEVERE REPUBLICAN CUTS TO OUR NATION'S DOMESTIC PROGRAMS

(Ms. SANCHEZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. SANCHEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call attention to the actions of the House. We are engaged in a very serious matter this week as we near a budget reconciliation. The Republican leadership is urging that we make severe cuts to our Nation's domestic programs, and, as my colleagues know, this is just after the last 4 or 5 months when they said there was so much money there they could return \$800 billion. But today they are telling us not only can they not do that, but they have got to cut the funding programs of the national government.

Mr. Speaker, as the daughter of a school teacher and a member of the House Committee on Education and the Workforce, I am particularly concerned that education will be severely affected. The majority spending bill would cut the national class size reduction program, after-school care, reading and math programs, Head Start and teacher training programs; but the damage would extend beyond the classroom. It would hit senior citizens, American working families, family caregivers, even the survivors of Hurricane Floyd.

I will oppose the HHS bill today, and I hope the rest of my colleagues will also.

THE REPUBLICAN CONGRESS SAYS STOP THE RAID

(Mr. BALLENGER asked and was given permission to address the House

for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, according to the most recent government audit, Federal agencies were unable to account for over 800 billion in Federal assets. My colleagues heard me right, \$800 billion. That would have to be a pretty big lost and found for all of that missing stuff, but in reality there is no Federal lost and found; and I am betting all that property is lost for good, Mr. Speaker.

That is a disgrace, and what makes it even worse and even more disgraceful is that \$800 billion, that could have been used to strengthen Social Security. While the Federal Government was losing all that property, it was raiding the Social Security Trust Fund to keep growing the size of government without increase in the accountability for how the taxpayers' money was spent.

Mr. Speaker, the Republican Congress is telling the President and the Democrat leadership that it is time to stop the raid, and we are asking them to join us in setting aside one penny of every Federal dollar to strengthen Social Security for the American people. It is our plan, it is fair, and it is responsible, and it is the right thing to do.

FAILURE OF THE WAR ON DRUGS DUE TO WIDE OPEN BORDERS

(Mr. TRAFICANT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, everybody in America is confused. After spending billions and billions of dollars on this War on Drugs, they cannot figure out why it has failed. Beam me up, Mr. Speaker. It does not take a rocket scientist to figure this out.

Water runs downhill, and drugs pour across our borders. Our borders are wide open. Heroin and cocaine are stone-cold imports, and heroin and cocaine flood across our borders.

I think it is time to do something about our borders, and our streets and our kids that are strung out, 12-year-olds in New York and Philadelphia on heroin.

I yield back, Mr. Speaker, the stupidity of Congress in dealing with the problem of narcotics.

SOCIAL SECURITY LOCKBOX HELD HOSTAGE

(Mr. HERGER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HERGER. Mr. Speaker, today is Day 154 of the Social Security lockbox held hostage by Senate Democrats. 154 days ago House Republicans and Democrats joined together to pass a bill I authored, H.R. 1259, the Social Security and Medicare Safe Deposit Box of 1999, by an overwhelming 416 to 12 vote. The

House of Representatives has made a commitment to not spend one penny of the Social Security Trust Fund on unrelated programs. Senate Republicans have attempted to bring this lockbox to the Senate floor seven times, and on seven occasions the measure was blocked from even being considered by a straight party-line vote.

Mr. Speaker, American seniors deserve more from Senate Democrats. They deserve a lockbox for their Social Security dollars.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SHAW). The Chair cautions that Members should avoid references to the other body.

WHAT HAVE THE REPUBLICANS DONE?

(Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, today the Republican-controlled House considers the last of the appropriations bills a month late, no budget, no reconciliation. But what have they done?

They have failed to extend the life of Social Security by even a single day. In fact, they have spent \$17 billion out of the Social Security Trust Fund. They have failed to provide for a fix of the Medicare system to cover our elderly citizens. In fact, they failed to even consider a prescription drug benefit for our elderly citizens. Their budget, while failing to do this, hurts American families in every way. Their budget today will cut money from education.

Mr. Speaker, think of the disappointment of parents who thought they were going to be able to send their children to a smaller class size so their children would have a better opportunity at learning to read, at learning to deal with mathematics. No, those parents will not have that opportunity, and yet all of the research tells us that if their children were able to have lower class sizes, they would have a better opportunity to learn.

But the Republicans do not address that, they do not address Social Security, and they harm Medicare.

CONFUSION

(Mr. OSE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. OSE. Mr. Speaker, I have in my hand the budget submitted by the President of the United States in his State of the Union, and on page 366 it details the various outlays, receipts and surplus for the upcoming fiscal year and the ensuing four. However I